

AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES CONSULAR MISSION ECUADOR



A NEWSLETTER OF THE U.S. EMBASSY AND CONSULATE
GENERAL FOR THE U.S. COMMUNITY IN ECUADOR

THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Vice President Mike Pence and Ecuadorian President Lenin Moreno

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2018: ADVANCING U.S. GOALS FOR MUTUAL GAIN

The past year has been one of the most productive for the U.S. Embassy and Consulate General in Ecuador. In an effort to keep the American citizen community informed about developments in the bilateral relationship, we take this opportunity to highlight the significant diplomatic achievements made over the last year.

In June 2018, Vice President Mike Pence made the first U.S. vice presidential visit to Ecuador in thirty years, opening up a new chapter in our bilateral relations to advance security, democracy, and prosperity in the region. President Moreno and Vice President Pence

recognized the close ties our people enjoy, and committed to working together to strengthen our partnership.

The leaders highlighted the important steps being taken to formalize our bilateral security partnership to address growing threats and violence from transnational organized crime and narcotrafficking organizations. In April 2018, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration entered into a bilateral framework agreement with the Ecuadorian Ministry of Interior (MOI) to facilitate counternarcotics and border security cooperation and information sharing. DHS also signed an agreement with MOI to establish a Transnational Crime Investigative Unit in the police. President Moreno and Vice President Pence welcomed several other new agreements and programs to deepen our cooperation in the fight against narcotrafficking and transnational crime. The Ecuadorian government invited the United States to reestablish its Office of Security Cooperation in Embassy Quito to facilitate increased military-military cooperation.

President Moreno and Vice President Pence also committed to intensify the bilateral dialogue on consular and human mobility issues. A new working group on consular and migration issues met in September and December 2018 to advance our agenda.

Our governments have shared concerns about the grave deterioration of Venezuela's democracy, which has caused the flight of more than two million Venezuelans to countries across the region, including Ecuador. This year, the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) and USAID/Food for Peace have provided more than \$16 million in bilateral assistance through international organizations and local NGOs to help the Ecuadorian government provide protection and services to Venezuelans, Colombian refugees, and other vulnerable populations in Ecuador.

In 2018, the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking-in-Persons

New Agreements and Programs

- Formal request by the Ecuadorian government to reestablish the Office of Security Cooperation in Embassy Quito, which opened in August 2018.
- \$3.45 million in new funding by the State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs to strengthen Ecuador's criminal justice and law enforcement capabilities.
- Ecuador's participation in the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Container Security Initiative, which is being implemented at the port of Guayaquil.
- Agreement formalizing the placement of an Ecuadorian liaison officer at the Joint Interagency Task Force - South in Florida to participate in regional efforts to detect, monitor, and interdict narcotrafficking.
- U.S. maritime patrol aircraft program in Ecuador, which led to the capture of 3.4 tons of cocaine in the Eastern Pacific during its first deployment in September 2018, thanks to successful cooperation between U.S. and Ecuadorian military and police.
- Global Materials Security Agreement to protect radioactive sources used for medical, research, and commercial purposes and to detect and deter trafficking of these materials.
- The State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor allocated over \$1.4 million this year to support civil society and institutional strengthening in Ecuador.

granted \$70,000 to the International Organization for Migration to assist the Ecuadorian government in developing a new national plan to combat human trafficking.

Over the last year, the U.S. Mission in Ecuador continued its efforts to promote academic partnerships and exchanges between Ecuador and the United States. The mission helped to develop study abroad programs in Ecuadorian universities to attract more U.S. students to Ecuador, offer capacity-building workshops with U.S. international education experts, and coordinate meetings with Ecuadorian government representatives and Ecuadorian universities to help facilitate academic partnerships. Ecuador remains among the top 20 study-abroad destinations in the world for U.S. students.

This year, the Embassy put together a network for Ecuadorian English teachers throughout the country to give them access to educational materials on U.S. culture, guidance on how to apply to universities in the United States, and updated information on teaching English as a foreign language. The Embassy also continued supporting Ecuadorian high school students in need by offering them two-year scholarships to study English in Cuenca, Guayaquil, Ibarra, Esmeraldas, Loja, and Quito. Since 2007, the U.S. Embassy has sponsored more than 1,000 Ecuadorian scholarship students.

The U.S. Embassy also promoted entrepreneurship for the next generation of entrepreneurs. The Embassy expanded its successful DreamBuilder program for women entrepreneurs, which works with an online program developed by Thunderbird University, to five cities in Ecuador (Ambato, Manta, Quito, Guayaquil, and Duran), with plans to expand to an additional five cities (Loja, Puyo, Ibarra, Cuenca, and Esmeraldas) in the coming year. Over the past year, we held interactive webchats connecting U.S. experts in entrepreneurship and innovation with Ecuadorian entrepreneurs. In addition, in September and October, we hosted two nationwide pitch competitions, one with young entrepreneurs and one with women entrepreneurs, bringing successful Ecuadorian-American business experts such as Nina Vaca, CEO of Pinnacle Group, and Karla Gallardo, CEO and Co-founder of Cuyana, to provide valuable feedback, expertise, and lessons learned to rising Ecuadorian entrepreneurs.

The U.S. Embassy's efforts over the past year have contributed to revitalized U.S.-Ecuador relations and meaningful progress in security, democracy, and prosperity in the region.



Graduates of the Youth Ambassadors Program, which sends promising high school students from underprivileged backgrounds to the United States where they learn about community service, leadership, and U.S. culture

USNS COMFORT VISITS ECUADOR

In late October, the U.S. Navy Hospital Ship COMFORT traveled to Esmeraldas, Ecuador, for five days as part of an 11-week medical assistance mission that also included visits to Peru, Colombia, and Honduras.

The crew included over 200 U.S. and partner-nation military doctors, nurses, and technicians. According to U.S. military officials, over those five days, the COMFORT treated almost 4,000 patients and performed 81 surgeries.

This was the sixth time the COMFORT has deployed to the region.



The U.S. Navy Hospital Ship USNS Comfort



AN INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR TODD CHAPMAN

Ambassador Todd C. Chapman arrived in Ecuador on January 29, 2016.

Q: What have been the highlights for the mission over the last year?

A: I'm delighted to say that relations between Ecuador and the United States are stronger than ever. Working closely with President Moreno and the Ecuadorian government, as well as the national police, the armed forces, the national assembly, civil society, the press, universities, and the private sector, we have increased cooperation in areas of common interest, including commerce, security, the fight against organized transnational crime, English teaching, academic exchanges, and the promotion of democracy, transparency, and human rights. It's a long list of joint achievements.

Q: What have been the highlights for you personally over the past year?

A: I have greatly enjoyed the innumerable experiences I have had in each of the diverse provinces of Ecuador. I've met with vast numbers of Ecuadorians, both in government and civil society, as well as with many of the more than 90,000 U.S. citizens who now proudly call Ecuador home.

Q: Where do you see the bilateral relationship heading in the coming years?

A: We've made huge strides in refreshing the bilateral relationship and I anticipate that will continue in the future.

WHAT'S NEW FOR U.S. CITIZENS?

U.S. Embassy and Consulate General are pleased to announce that, to provide you with better customer service, we may now accept Adult Passport Renewals via DHL, effective immediately.

Many adult passport renewals will no longer require drop off at the U.S. Embassy in Quito or U.S. Consulate General in Guayaquil.



If you are eligible to renew your passport using the DHL service, you must send your current passport with your completed application (DS-82), current passport photos, and a cashier's check for \$110 issued in the name of U.S. Disbursing Officer (one check for each passport application). The U.S. Embassy's RUC is 1791845986001. If customers would also like a passport card, there is an additional \$30 fee. All documents are submitted to DHL along with payment of the \$15+VAT for delivery and the \$15+VAT to receive the passport via DHL.

For detailed instructions on preparing and submitting a complete application, visit our website, ec.usembassy.gov.

JOIN THE AMERICAN LIAISON NETWORK

The U.S. Embassy in Quito is looking for Citizen Liaison Volunteers (CLVs) to join the American Liaison Network (ALN). CLVs are liaisons to the U.S. citizen communities we serve, helping us identify the needs of the community, proactively communicating information to us, and partnering with us to address security, safety, and health issues affecting U.S. citizens. If you would like to volunteer for the program, receive specialized training, and assist fellow U.S. citizens who are traveling or residing in Ecuador, please contact us.

If you are interested in joining our dynamic team of Citizen Liaison Volunteers and are based in Bolivar, Carchi, Chimborazo, Cotopaxi, Esmeraldas, Morona-Santiago, Napo, Orellana, Pastaza, Pichincha, Santo Domingo, Sucumbioa, or Tungurahua, contact ACSQuito@state.gov. Interested volunteers who live in Azuay, Cañar, El Oro, Galápagos, Guayas, Loja, Los Ríos, Manabí, Santa Elena, or Zamora Chinchipe can contact ACSGuayaquil@state.gov.

(NOTE: We currently have sufficient numbers of CLVs for Pichincha province.)



Smart Traveler Enrollment Program

A SERVICE OF THE BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS
U.S. Department of State

Enroll in STEP!

The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) is a free service to allow U.S. citizens and nationals traveling and living abroad to enroll their trip with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

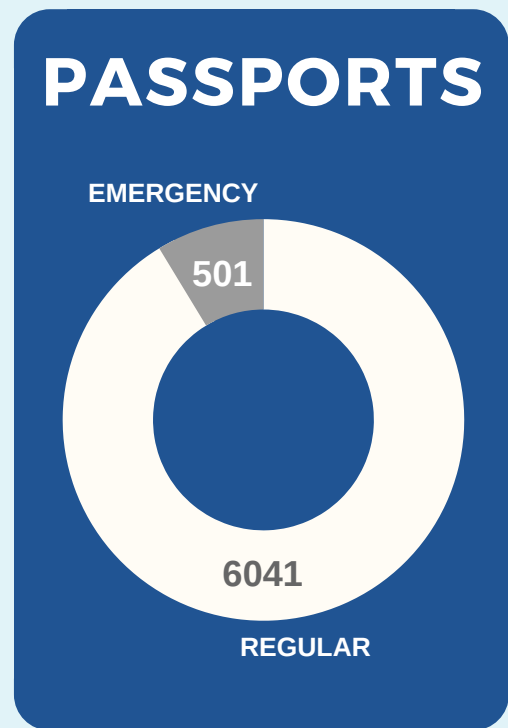
Benefits

- Receive important information from the Embassy about safety conditions in your destination country, helping you make informed decisions about your travel plans.
- Help the U.S. Embassy contact you in an emergency, whether natural disaster, civil unrest, or family emergency.
- Help family and friends get in touch with you in an emergency.

Enroll at: <https://step.state.gov/step/>

2018 BY THE NUMBERS

ACS | MISSION ECUADOR



314 EMERGENCY SERVICES



VICTIMS OF CRIME



MISSING PERSONS



MEDICAL

ANIMAL ATTACKS

